

GAURA PLANT NAMED 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'

Genus: GAURA

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Species: *lindheimeri*

Denomination: PASSIONATE RAINBOW

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of butterfly bush grown for use as an ornamental plant for use in the landscape. The new cultivar is known
15 botanically as *Gaura lindheimeri* and will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar name 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'.

'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' was first observed in November 2001 as an individual spontaneous seedling with variegated foliage which was discovered by the inventor to be growing amongst a crop of plants of the non-variegated variety *Gaura*
20 *lindheimeri* 'Passionate Pink' (unpatented) in a cultivated area of Victoria, Australia. 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is presumed to have resulted from open pollination of plants of *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Passionate Pink', which variety is presumed to be the seed parent and the pollen parent.

The inventor allowed the discovered seedling to grow sufficiently that the
25 inventor could take and asexually propagate ten stem cuttings in January 2002. *Gauras* grow very rapidly, allowing the inventor to have asexually propagated at least four further generations of plants (stem cuttings) and to determine that the characteristics have remained stable and to reproduce true to type during successive generations.

When compared with the presumed parental cultivar, *Gaura lindheimeri*
30 'Passionate Pink', the leaves of 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' exhibit variegation, while the leaves of *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Passionate Pink' are entirely absent of variegation.

'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' exhibits a dense upright growth habit, variegated foliage, and red-pink flowers.

The closest comparison plants to 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' known to the inventor are the variegated varieties *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Sunny Butterflies' (unpatented) and *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Bijou Butterflies' (U.S. Plant Patent Application No. 10/676,193; filing date September 30, 2003).

'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is distinguishable from *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Sunny Butterflies' by the color of variegation. The variegated foliage of 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is prominently tinged with red-pink towards the apex, whereas the foliage of 'Sunny Butterflies' foliage is uniformly yellow and cream-white.

'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is distinguishable from *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Bijou Butterflies' by density of plant habit. 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' exhibits a dense form, while 'Bijou Butterflies' exhibits greater density.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new plant cultivar 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'. In combination these traits set 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' apart from all other *Gaura* known to the inventor. 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' has not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic differences may be observed with variations in environmental, climatic and cultural conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

1. *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' exhibits a dense, upright habit.
2. *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' exhibits red-pink flowers.
3. The foliage of *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' exhibits cream-white variegation with red-pink coloration towards the apex.
4. *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is propagated using vegetative stem cuttings.
5. *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is hardy in USDA Zones 5.

6. In one growing season, *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' reaches approximately 25 cm in height and 20cm – 25cm in width in a 1-litre container.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Gaura* cultivar 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawings may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual colors of the new variety 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'.

The drawing labeled as Figure 1 illustrates a six months old plant of 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' in first flower.

The drawing labeled as Figure 2 illustrates the flower of 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'.

Both drawings were made from digital images of plants grown in an unheated greenhouse in Naaldwijk, The Netherlands. Colors in the drawings may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Gaura* plant named 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande California from 6-month-old plants that were grown in 1-litre containers out-of-doors in full sun. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2001 Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to other *Gaura*.

Botanical classification: *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW'.

Species: *lindheimeri*.

Commercial classification: Perennial.

Common name: Butterfly bush.

5 Use: Ornamental plant for use in the landscape.

Cultural requirements: Plant in well-drained moderately fertile soil in full sun.

Pests and disease: No susceptibility or resistance to pests or disease are known to the inventor.

Root system: Deep rooting makes the plant very drought tolerant.

10 Parentage: *Gaura* 'PASSIONATE RAINBOW' is a spontaneous seedling mutation that is presumed to have resulted from open pollination between the following parent plants:

Seed parent plant: Presumed to be *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Passionate Pink'.

Pollen parent plant: Presumed to be *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Passionate Pink'.

Plant description:

15 Bloom period: Late spring to fall.

Growth habit: Dense, upright growth habit.

Plant height: 25 cm. in height at 6 months in a 1-litre container.

Plant width: 20 cm - 25 cm. in width at 6 months in a 1-litre container.

Plant hardiness: USDA Zones 5-10.

20 Propagation: Propagation is accomplished using vegetative stem cuttings.

Time to develop roots: 2-3 weeks are needed for initial cuttings to develop roots.

Crop time: 6 months are needed to produce a finished 1-litre container from a rooted cutting.

Stem:

25 Stem shape: Cylindrical.

Stem color: Colors 147B and 183A are individually present on stem.

Stem texture: Flexible.

Stem width: 2 mm. in width.

Stem length: 16-19 cm. in length.

30 Stem surface: Glabrous,

Internode length: Average internode length is 1 cm.

Foliage:

Shape: Oblanceolate.

Division: Simple.

Apex: Accuminate.

5 Base: Attenuate.

Venation pattern: Pinnate.

Vein color (adaxial surfaces): 187A

Vein color (abaxial surfaces): 187A.

Margins: Entire.

10 Attachment: Sessile.

Arrangement: Alternate and spiraling.

Leaf surface (adaxial surface): Glabrous.

Leaf surface (abaxial surface): Glabrous.

Leaf appearance: Matte.

15 Leaf length: Leaf length ranges from 1.5 cm. to 4 cm. in length.

Leaf width: Leaf width ranges from .25 cm. to .50 cm. in width.

Leaf color (adaxial surfaces): 147A and 158B are both present on an individual leaf. Newly emerging and emerged leaves suffused with 58A.

Leaf color (abaxial surfaces): 147A and 158B are both present on an individual leaf. Newly emerging and emerged leaves suffused with 58A.

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Fragrance: None observed.

Flowers:

Inflorescence: Panicle.

Shape: Explanate.

25 Sexuality: Bisexual.

Flower dimensions: 3 mm. in diameter and 1.50 cm. in length.

Calcar (spur): Two present on an individual flower.

Calcar dimensions: 1.50 cm. in length and 2 mm. in width.

Calcar color: 58A.

30 Pedicel dimensions: 6 mm. in length and 1.50 mm. in width.

Pedicel color: 183A.

Flowers persistent or self-cleaning: Self-cleaning.

Aspect: Facing outward.

Bud dimensions: 2 mm. in width and 8 mm. in length.

Number of buds: 20-25 buds per panicle.

5 Bud shape: Linear.

Bud color: 59A.

Bud surface: Puberulent.

Number of buds per peduncle: An average of 10-15 buds per peduncle.

Bud apex: Acute.

10 Flower color: A combination of colors N57B and N57C are present.

Petals: Four in number.

Petal color (adaxial surface): Colors N57B and N57C are individually present on an individual flower.

15 Petal color (abaxial surface): Colors N57B and N57C are individually present on an individual flower.

Petal shape: Closest to ovate.

Petal length: 6 mm. in length.

Petal width: 1 cm. in width.

Petals fused or unfused: Unfused.

20 Petal margin: Entire.

Petal apex: Acute.

Petal surface: Glabrous.

Pedicel shape: Cylindrical.

Pedicel color: 187B.

25 Pedicel surface: Glabrous.

Calyx: Absent.

Flower fragrance: None observed.

Lastingness of flower: 24-48 hours.

Reproductive organs:

30 Stamens: Eight in number.

Stamen color: 59D.

Stamen dimensions: 8 mm. in length and .50 mm. in diameter.

Anther color: 59A.

Anther dimensions: 3 mm. in length and 0.20 mm. in width.

Quantity of pollen: Small amount.

5 Color of pollen: 59A.

Pistil: One in number.

Pistil dimensions: 1.50 cm. in length and 0.50 mm. in width.

Pistil color: 61A.

Pistil shape: Filament.

10 Style color: 61A.

Stigma shape: Four lobed.

Stigma color: 61A.

Stigma dimensions: 2 mm. in height and 2 mm. in width.

Ovary position: Inferior.

15 Ovary color: 139A.

Ovary shape: Ovate.

Ovary dimensions: 3 mm. in length and 3 mm. in diameter.

Seed production:

No seed observed to date.

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